

BE CAREFUL HOW YOUR CHILDREN DRESS

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June 13, 1997 (David W. Cloud, Fundamental Baptist News Service, 1701 Harns Rd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277) - A confession by a child murderer has reminded us of the importance of teaching our children to dress modestly even when they are very small. A seven-year-old girl was murdered in July 1994. The wicked man who was recently convicted of the brutal crime made the following statement: "A lot of times during the summer, she would be sitting on the curb across the street. She would write with chalk in the streets. She would wear shorts with no panties and I would see this" (Associated Press, May 9, 1997).

By no means is this wicked man justified in his sin, but this case does remind us of how important it is in this evil world to practice modesty even at a very tender age. We are convinced that modesty is best learned, in fact, when we are young. If a little girl is dressed immodestly, in shorts or short skirts or halter tops or bathing suits, she will think nothing of wearing the same thing as she grows older and matures physically. She will think nothing of it, I say, but the boys and men will think a lot about it! On the other hand, a little girl that is dressed modestly from earliest childhood will not easily depart from that standard as she grows older.

Before the Fall, Adam and Eve were naked and they were not ashamed, but mankind no longer lives in that pristine environment. We have sinned against God and our hearts are darkened. One of the first things God did after man's fall was to cloth the man and the woman in coats (Gen. 3:21). The Bible warns that for a man to look upon a woman to lust after her in his heart is to commit adultery with her (Matt. 5:28). The law of God forbade men and women to look upon the nakedness of the other sex outside of the marriage union (Lev. 18:20). The woman who refuses to dress modestly is responsible for the lustful thoughts and illicit passions she stirs up in men. A woman who loves the Lord will not cause others to be tempted with evil. The Bible instructs the older women to teach the younger women to be chaste so the Word of God will not be blasphemed (Titus 2:3-5).